

years is increase the benefit from 280 to \$293 and in addition provide transitional money as Senator Ashford has so wisely and properly suggested. That increase over a period of eight years is 4.6 percent to go from 280 to 293. To go from 280 to 300 is 7.1 percent over eight years which is less than 1 percent a year. Now it's difficult to say what is the most appropriate level of ADC payments and I don't deprecate what Senator Nelson has done when she comes up with her charts and graphs and shows that in some instances the working poor may actually fare more poorly than those who receive ADC benefits, but that is no reason in the world for us to deny our needy children of money. That is no reason for us to do that. What you and I have to do is to work diligently for the working poor to have more money by supporting such things as increases in the minimum wage law. As you know, this year Congress will undoubtedly increase the minimum wage from either 3.35 an hour to 4.65 an hour which is what the Senate wants or from 3.35 an hour to 5.05 an hour which is what the House wants. There will be an increase, first time again in 10 years. We have to do right by the working poor and also by the parent who stays home and cares for our children, even though I don't want to think of other people's children as belonging to the state and I won't suggest it, nonetheless, we're all in a community together. We're all in a community together. It is a community of brothers and sisters and we've got a responsibility for needy children and this little amendment plus the funds provides a 7.1 percent increase over a period of eight years, and I think it's only meet, right, just and proper that we do that much. And if we sit back and accept a 4.6 percent increase over eight years, we haven't done right. We just haven't done right and we can do better because we're a better people than that and we can afford it. I guarantee you it can be afforded notwithstanding what the Appropriations Committee might sometimes grumble about or notwithstanding what might be said on the floor, it can be afforded. We can do it and we should do it. So I would offer you my little \$7 amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the Johnson amendment, Senator Chambers, Senator Wesely next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I support Senator Johnson's amendment and, Senator Johnson, when it comes to the Appropriations Committee and issues like ADC, you said they grumble, I agree. They should be referred to as the "Grumbletonians". That was a term used by certain people at